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Enjoy Aruba's
57th carnival

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Grace Period *pg 3*

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Mighty Talent is Calypso & Roadmarch King 2011



From left to right, 2nd runner-up Valentino King, first runner-up Lady V, Calypso King 2011 Mighty Talent, 3rd runner-up Eugene Kemp and 4th runner-up Mighty Whitey - Gregory Lyder.

(photo courtesy of Baboe Hoek)

Sass and spirit win the day as Angelique Stukker is crowned Mrs. Carnaval 57



At left, Minister Hooyboer Winklaar crowning the 17th Mrs. Carnival; at right, first runner up Glenda Maduro.



The carnival queen contest where the qualities of carnival spirit and intelligence come most into play took place this past Friday evening, February 4th, and the lively presentation by Angelique Stukker, the candidate from the T.O.B. carnival group, won the day. Aruba's Minister of Social and Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar proudly placed the crown as it was passed from the retiring Mrs. Carnaval 16, Carmen Maduro.

Continued on page 5

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Embattled Australia hit by fires



PERTH, Australia (AFP) — Wildfires destroyed homes and flooding claimed the life of a man in embattled Australia as officials warned that last week's monster cyclone would compound economic woes.

Three major fires razed properties around the west coast city of Perth, as a volatile weather system trailing Cyclone Yasi, a top-level storm that battered Australia's north-east coast, continued to wreak havoc.

"There have been homes destroyed but we are not sure

how many at this stage," an emergency spokeswoman told AFP, describing conditions as "pretty nasty."

Local media said up to 35 houses had been engulfed by flames at Roleystone, a heavily wooded area on the southern outskirts of Perth, with another out-of-control blaze on the northern fringes forcing more than 150 evacuations.

A thick cloud of smoke hung over Perth, as helicopters doused the flames with water from above while dozens of firefighters tackled the blaze on the ground, the AAP news agency reported.

The fires were described as a threat to lives and property, with officials urging residents to "act immediately to survive" either abandoning their home if it was safe to do so or preparing to defend their property from the flames.

Reports said a firefighter had been injured battling the blaze near Roleystone and a further 10 people were taken for hospital treatment after inhaling thick smoke.

The fires came as the south-eastern state of Victoria paused to mark two years since the "Black Saturday" firestorm that claimed 173 lives and obliterated entire villages.

A year's worth of rain was dumped on Mildura — a city of some 50,000 residents — in a single day, inundating 200 homes.

"We are heading for some major problems in Victoria and this is going to strike people as really cruel, given that Victoria is about to mark the second anniversary of the devastating bushfires," said Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

Yasi was one of the largest storms to ever hit Australia, and Treasurer Wayne Swan warned it would deepen economic woes brought by the Queensland floods — the recovery from which is set to cost an estimated Aus\$5.6 billion (\$5.6 billion).

Charles Taylor war crimes trial enters final phase



Charles Taylor

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) — Charles Taylor's war crimes trial enters its final phase this week after three years of gripping, often gruesome, testimony on the Liberian ex-president's alleged war-mongering in Sierra Leone.

Prosecutor Brenda Hollis will present her closing arguments to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, insisting that Taylor armed rebels who staged one of the most brutal conflicts in modern times, in exchange for illegally mined diamonds.

"Charles Taylor created, armed, supported and controlled the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in a ten-

year campaign of terror" that claimed some 120,000 lives until 2001, states the prosecution's final trial brief.

Thousands of civilians had limbs severed in one of history's bloodiest civil wars, which Taylor started "by sending ammunition, weapons and manpower to the RUF and its allies", according to the prosecution. "The crimes suffered by the people of Sierra Leone would not have occurred but for Taylor's supervision and support for the RUF."

Taylor, 62, received "mayonnaise jars" of so-called blood diamonds from the RUF, a handful of which he presented to supermodel Naomi Campbell at a charity dinner in South Africa in 1997, according to testimony before the court.

Lawyers for Taylor, who has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, will present their closing arguments followed by two hours of rebuttal for each side. The judges will then retire to consider their judgment but the court's verdict is not expected before the middle of the year.

The trial started in earnest in January 2008 in The Hague for fear that Taylor's presence in Sierra Leone, where the tribunal is based, could destabilise the region.

The judges have heard gruesome testimony from victims of the conflict, including a witness who said he pleaded with RUF rebels to cut off his remaining hand so they would spare his toddler son.

Taylor dismisses the charges as "lies", denies having received any diamonds, and rejects testimony that he had eaten human flesh. But he saw nothing wrong with human skulls displayed at military checkpoints, the former president told the court.

Former chief prosecutor Stephen Rapp has said he was confident of a conviction and was anticipating "close to a life sentence" for Taylor, the first African head of state to be tried before an international court.

The court has heard evidence from 94 prosecution witnesses and 21 for the defence, and has admitted 1,093 exhibits. The trial transcript is more than 49,000 pages long.

Wife of Pakistani shot by US gunman commits suicide

LAHORE, Pakistan (AFP) — The wife of a Pakistani shot dead by a US official committed suicide after taking poisonous pills, fearing the American would be released without trial, police and doctors said.

The US consular employee, whom Pakistani police identified as Raymond Davis, was arrested on January 27 after shooting dead Mohammad Faheem and Faizan Haider, saying he acted in self-defence fearing the pair were about to rob him.

The American was arrested by police and a case of double murder registered against him.

Shumaila, the wife of Faheem, took poisonous pills and was taken to hospital in Faisalabad city, local police chief Usman Anwar told AFP, where she died despite attempts to save her.

"Doctors tried hard to save her life but could not succeed and she died a short while ago," he said.

Her body will be handed over to the family after a post mortem, local police said.

Shumaila told local Duniya television that she was upset over reports that efforts were being made to secure Davis release and that she feared he

could be released without trial. "I was under shock and decided to kill myself," she said. "We want blood for blood," she told the channel.

Faheem's brother Mohammad Waseem told AFP that Shumaila, 18, was plunged into a "severe depression" by her husband's death.

The shooting incident has sparked fury in Pakistan, where anti-Americanism is rampant.

In last month's incident, a third Pakistani was knocked down and killed by a vehicle from the US consulate in Lahore that tried to rescue Davis.

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New law on firearms has Grace Period



ORANJESTAD -- A new and much stricter law on the possession of firearms has been enacted as of January 1st, 2011, and entails that everyone in the possession of a firearm must have a personal permit to carry a firearm.

All permits, including collective permits for shooting foundations, have expired on January 1st and are no longer valid. Persons, who up to that moment were under the cloak of a foundation, must now obtain their own personal permission.

Much stricter conditions are attached to this firearms law. The complete list of conditions can be obtained from the Aruba Police Force. One of the important conditions for obtaining a permission to carry a firearm is that the owner of a firearm must have a safe in his house designed especially for

carrying a firearm and munitions.

Another important condition is that the owner must be member of a shooting organization, he must not have a police record, and that the owner must obtain a personal psychological evaluation. He will be permitted to carry a firearm only on the area where the shooting range is and on the route from the safe at his home to the shooting area.

All permits expired on January 1st 2011; this includes those permits which were issued for personal protection and self defense. Henceforth, petitions for a permit for personal protection will no longer be issued as of January 1st 2011.

The Ministry of Public Justice and the Aruba Police Force have decided, with respect to this new law, to introduce a pe-

riod of grace. This period of grace will afford anyone who has not yet complied with the conditions of the new law, the opportunity to request a permit to carry a firearm or to turn in their firearm to the Police Station without any sanction. The Ministry of Public Justice and the Aruba Police Force want to afford, specifically, those who are in the possession of a firearm who do not want or cannot qualify for an individual permit, the opportunity to turn in their firearm at the Police Force. The grace period is valid through to June 2011 and is valid for everyone in the possession of a firearm, who has not yet obtained a valid permit to carry a firearm.

Possession of a firearm without the proper permit is a serious crime. Illegal possession of a firearm carries a stiff prison sentence. Hence, the Police Force and justice authorities make an insistent call to all those in the possession of a firearm to rectify their personal firearm permit, or to make use of the grace period to turn in their firearm without any risk.

In the context of this new firearms law, the Police will be enforcing the public order very strictly. The Aruba Police Force has instituted a separate team which will be engaged in looking for and investigating firearms. This means that the chance of being found with an illegal firearm is much greater today.

Wilders blasts Ramallah visit by Minister Rosenthal

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Dutch Freedom Party leader Geert Wilders strongly opposes Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal's planned visit to the Palestinian city of Ramallah in the West Bank.

The Freedom Party (PVV), which provides parliamentary support to the Netherlands' right-wing VVD-CDA minority cabinet, regards Jordan as the 'real' Palestinian state. "Its capital is Amman, not Ramallah. So Mr Rosenthal really has no business going there," Mr Wilders said yesterday.

Mr Rosenthal began his tour of the Middle East on yesterday in Amman. In the following days, he will visit Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Ramallah is home to

2011 Calypso & Roadmarch Contest results



Calypso & Roadmarch King 2011 Mighty Talent Claudius Phillips poses with his two crowns.

Photo courtesy of Michael Carty)

SAN NICOLAS -- In the early hours of Sunday in a full house Joe Laveist Sport Park, the winners of the 2011 Calypso & Roadmarch contest were chosen. Mighty Talent, Claudius Phillips became the absolute winner, conquering both the Calypso and Roadmarch crown.

This year's contest was dedicated to Franklin Granadillo and Reynaldo Rusty Sprott.

The results of the contests are as follows:

CALYPSO:

1st place: Mighty Talent - Claudius Phillips, band Oreo;

2nd place: Lady Vi - Viviana Hooker, band NBO;

3rd place: Valentino King, band NBO;

4th place: EK Eugene Kemp, band Youth X-treme; and

5th place: Mighty Whitey - Gregory Lyder, band The Creators.

ROADMARCH:

1st place: Mighty Talent - Claudius Phillips, band Oreo;

2nd place: Caiso Teddy - Samuel Phillips, Dushi Band;

3rd place: Mighty Campo - Miguel Oliva, band On Cue;

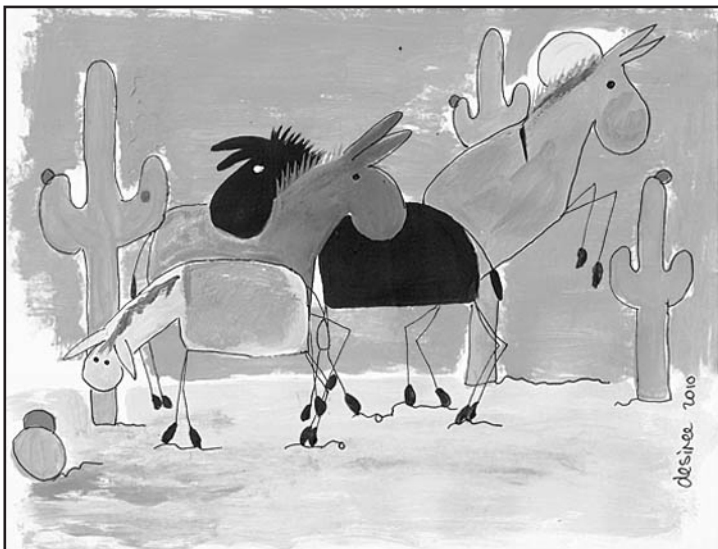
4th place: Lady Vi - Viviana Hooker, band NBO; and

5th place: Master Gusto - Derwin Kemp, band Youth X-treme.

Best Dressed Band: On Cue

Best Dressed Singer: Mighty Talent Claudius Phillips

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Mystical, Magical Mystery Tour with island artist Rudy Leysner Now on view at Ateliers '89



Rudy Leysner and his collage drawings

The interesting work of young artist Rudy Leysner, who was born in Colombia but raised on Aruba, is now on display at the Ateliers '89 gallery in Oranjestad for one week. Rudy is enjoying a short hiatus from his studies at the Fine Art Institution Boliver in Colombia to reconnect with his Aruban roots and have his first solo show here.

Rudy has a fascination for, and works principally with, fine point marker pen, though this collection also includes a few acrylic paintings. His works show a distinct influence from the multi-hued psychedelic trends of the sixties, as well as an admiration for a number of musical performers from that decade. If you like record album art, then you will have an affinity for Rudy's graphical pieces, which also are a product of his fascination with tattoo art and his stint designing tattoos. His work also demonstrates a marked interest in the spiritual and expression of the "inner self."

Along with the opening of Rudy's exposition last Thursday evening, visitors were treated to an inside look at the creative process with artist/instructor Tomas Adolfs, from Holland. He began a class of literally-"Monumental Art" where students produced huge drawings reflecting something that had a great effect on their lives. It could be a person, place, event, a dream or memory or what they aspire to; the drawings will eventually be transformed from a flat, two-dimensional medium to a three-dimensional sculpted medium. Workshops conducted by visiting artist Taria Sareniec and Thomas will continue this project over the next two months, and a final exposition of the results is planned for April.



Instructor Tomas Adolfs with students Anjo Roosveel and Susan van Spall



The Enlightening Journey between I and Eye by Rudy Leysner

Tomas expressed quite some surprise but enormous satisfaction in the vision and creativity of his 15 students, ranging in age from 15 years old to 50. "I find there is such diversity here, in age and background. However, the students really interact and engage with each other, sharing ideas and suggestions, it has been really enjoyable and a revelation working with the Ateliers '89 students."

Ateliers '89 was co-founded in 1989 by island artists Elvis Lopez and Evelino Fingal to encourage the perpetuation of culture and interest in art on Aruba. Closed for a number of years, Elvis reopened the center in Oranjestad a not long ago, and since then has welcomed a steady parade of international artists to share their expertise with aspiring and established island artists.



work in progress

by Rosalie Klein

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Sass and spirit win the day ...

Continued from page 1



Mrs carnival native costume

Angelique, one of five candidates for the title, also won the sashes and trophies for "Best Show" and "Best Speech," insuring her receiving the crown.

The evening's program was an entertaining parade of local talent, and Angelique's polished production featuring Oslin Boekhoudt and the Pachanga dance crew was a standout. Undoubtedly, her active participation in the show



Mia Ras winner of best costume

contributed to the judges' decision.

First runner up was an elegantly-gowned Glenda Maduro, representing Colombian Emeralds International. Glenda also was awarded trophies for Best Make-Up from Revlon, key sponsors of the event, and Most Popular, as her costume and performance were also notable and very pleasing to the audience.

Candidate #1, Mia Ras, representing the Teasers and Pleasers Carnival Group, won



Rosalia Kelly of Majestic



Selsa Quandus Maduro for Rainy Pinky

the award for "Best Costume." Other candidates include Selsa Quandus Maduro for Rainy Pinky group and Rosalia Kelly representing the Majestic group.

This was the 17th Mrs. Carnival pageant, which has grown in scope and production values to equal any of the of other queen elections. It was a grand night of showmanship and style, with a new queen to join her royal cohorts as they reign over events during the 2011 Carnival season.

by Roslie Klein



Genda Maduro in native costume

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Sci-Tech

Iran opens center for satellite images

TEHRAN, Iran (AFP) - Iran yesterday opened its first center to receive satellite images, a new stage in its space program that coincides with celebrations of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi said the equipment used in the center located in the desert was "manufactured by Iranian engineers," the state television's website reported.

Iran does not have an operational satellite of its own but announced in December that it would launch two satellites by the end of the Iranian year in March 2011.

On Sunday, the Fars news agency quoted Vahidi as saying that the Islamic republic would unveil today four satellites built "entirely by Iranian engineers."

Tehran would also unveil a new rocket, Kavoshgar-4 (Explorer-4), and engines for a two-stage Safir Fajr rocket.

Vahidi said last week Iran would unveil two rockets during the anniversary celebrations: Kavoshgar-4 and Safir (Ambassador) 1-B. But the Fars report did not specify if Safir Fajr was a new name for Safir 1-B or a different rocket.

Iranian media reports said



last week that the Safir 1-B can carry a satellite weighing 50 kilograms (110 pounds) into an elliptical orbit of 300 to 450 kilometers (185 to 280 miles).

The range of the Kavoshgar-4 rocket has been put at 120 kilometers.

Iran in February 2009 sent into space the Safir-2 rocket carrying its first home-built test satellite, called Omid (Hope).

Twelve months later, it launched a capsule carrying live turtles, rats and worms aboard a Kavoshgar-3 rocket in what was Iran's first experiment to send living creatures

into space.

Iran uses the run-up to the revolution anniversary to tout its scientific and technological achievements, with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad last week opening a new space research and training center.

Iran's missile and space programs have sparked concern abroad that such advanced technologies, combined with the nuclear know-how which the nation is acquiring, may enable Tehran to produce an atomic weapon.

Tehran denies its nuclear program has military aims.

Will Apophis the asteroid hit Earth in 2036?



HURLING TOWARDS EARTH: The asteroid Apophis was discovered on June 19, 2004. It will fly within 18,300 miles of Earth on April 13, 2029, but poses little risk of impact.

In 2004, NASA scientists announced that there was a chance that Apophis, an asteroid larger than two football fields, could smash into Earth in 2029. A few additional observations and some number-crunching later, astronomers noted that the chance of the planet-killer hitting Earth in 2029 was nearly zilch.

Now, reports out of Russia say that scientists there estimate Apophis will collide with Earth on April 13, 2036. These reports conflict on the probability of such a doomsday event, but the question remains: How scared should we be?

"Technically, they're correct, there is a chance in 2036 [that Apophis will hit Earth]," said Donald Yeomans, head of NASA's Near-Earth Object Program Office. However, that chance is just 1-in-250,000, Yeomans said.

The Russian scientists are basing their predictions of a collision on the chance that the 900-foot-long (270 meters) Apophis will travel through what's called a gravitational keyhole as it passes by Earth in 2029. The gravitational keyhole they mention is a precise region in space, only slightly larger than the asteroid itself, in which the effect of Earth's gravity is such that it could tweak Apophis' path.

"The situation is that in

2029, April 13, Apophis flies very close to the Earth, within five Earth radii, so that will be quite an event, but we've already ruled out the possibility of it hitting at that time," Yeomans said. "On the other hand, if it goes through what we call a keyhole during that close Earth approach ... then it will indeed be perturbed just right so that it will come back and smack Earth on April 13, 2036," Yeomans said.

The chances of the asteroid going through the keyhole, which is tiny compared to the asteroid, are "minuscule," Yeomans added.

The more likely scenario is this: Apophis will make a fairly close approach to Earth in late 2012 and early 2013, and will be extensively observed with ground-based optical telescopes and radar systems. If it seems to be heading on a destructive path, NASA will devise the scheme and machinery necessary to change the asteroid's orbit, decreasing the probability of a collision in 2036 to zero, Yeomans said.

There are several ways to change an asteroid's orbit, the simplest of which is to run a spacecraft into the hurtling rock. This technology was used on July 4, 2005, when Deep Impact smashed into the comet Tempel 1.

Japanese stem cell researcher wins top award

MADRID, Spain (AFP) - Japanese scientist Shinya Yamanaka was honoured on the weekend with a Spanish award worth 400,000 euros (\$544,000) for his pioneering work on cell reprogramming.

Yamanaka won the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Biomedicine, the foundation announced.

The former orthopedic surgeon made his breakthrough discovery in 2006 when he succeeded in generating "induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells", or those capable of growing into other tissues in the body.

Until Yamanaka proved differently, scientists believed that this could only be achieved with stem cells harvested from embryos, the foundation said in a statement.



Professor Shinya Yamanaka

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Health & Living

Are brains shrinking to make us smarter?

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Human brains have shrunk over the past 30,000 years, puzzling scientists who argue it is not a sign we are growing dumber but that evolution is making the key motor leaner and more efficient.

The average size of modern humans -- Homo sapiens -- has decreased about 10 percent during that period -- from 1,500 to 1,359 cubic centimeters, the size of a tennis ball.

Women's brains, which are smaller on average than those of men, have experienced an equivalent drop in size.

These measurements were taken using skulls found in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

"I'd called that a major downsizing in an evolutionary eye blink," John Hawks of the University of Michigan told Discover magazine.

But other anthropologists note that brain shrinkage is not very surprising since the stronger and larger we are, the more gray matter we need to control this larger mass.

The Neanderthal, a cousin of the modern human who disappeared about 30 millennia ago for still unknown reasons, was far more massive and had a larger brain.

The Cro-Magnons who left cave paintings of large animals in the monumental Lascaux cave over 17,000 years ago were the Homo sapiens with the biggest brain. They were also stronger than their modern descendants.

Psychology professor David Geary of the University of Missouri said these traits were necessary to survive in a hostile environment.

He has studied the evolution of skull sizes 1.9 million to 10,000 years old as our ancestors and cousins lived in an increasingly complex social environment.

Geary and his colleagues used population density as a measure of social complexity, with the hypothesis that the more humans are living closer together, the greater the exchanges between group, the division of labor and the rich and varied interactions between people.

They found that brain size decreased as population density increased.

15 dead in Bangladesh as Nipah virus returns

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AFP) — At least 15 people have died in an outbreak of Nipah virus in a remote northern Bangladesh town as the deadly disease returned to the country, an official said.

Nipah induces flu-like symptoms that often lead to encephalitis and coma, with at least a 70 percent mortality rate in Bangladesh.

The latest outbreak was confirmed Friday in Hati-bandha in Lalmonirhat district.

"So far, we have had 24 people affected by the Nipah virus in Hatibandha," said Mahmudur Rahman, a senior health official. "Of the total, 15 have died and several people are in critical condition," he said.

At least 113 people, excluding the latest victims, have died of the virus in Bangladesh since the first outbreak in 2001.

The government in Dhaka has set up a detection laboratory to speed up testing for any outbreak.

The virus, named after the Malaysian village where it was first detected, jumped the

species barrier from fruit bats to pigs and then to humans in October 1998. It is believed to be caught through direct contact with pigs.

In 1999, 256 people in Malaysia fell ill with the disease, and four in 10 patients died. More than a million pigs were slaughtered to help curb its spread.



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While visiting the beautiful island of Aruba, the Mentas family from North Carolina, not only fell in love with the people of Aruba, but also one very sweet brown and white female beach dog. That little dog was the best part of their vacation. They first met her on the beach near the Aruba Beach Club on Sat, Jan 8th and last saw her on Tuesday night, Jan 11th. She may have been seen on February 3 in town, near a restaurant.

Jennifer Mentas describes the dog, "She was just adorable, and incredibly gentle, so gentle that she would take food from me, but wait until my three year old daughter placed it on the ground. She was very smart, gentle, sweet, and loving, and, most importantly, amazing with my kids.

My children fell in love with her as much as I did. One night, I gave her some soup, and, after she finished, she gently jumped up on me, wrapped her paws around my neck and gave me a doggie "hug" as if to say "thank you!" -that's when I knew this dog was beyond sweet and we had to take her home!

On Wednesday, Jennifer and her kids expected to see "Divi" on the beach but she never showed up. She asked around to see if anyone had seen the pup and found a couple who had spotted the dog walking with a group of women heading away from the Aruba Beach Club, towards the high-rise hotels. Jennifer and her kids spent the day walking up and down the beach, looking for "Divi" but, sadly, she was never seen. Jennifer just figured she'd be back because of all the love and great food she had received.

We hope you can help Jennifer and her family. We believe she may have wandered by other hotels, restaurants and into town. We need your help to provide the "happy ending for the Mentas family's visit to One Happy Island." Please use the contact information below to let us know you have her, or you have seen her. The family is offering a reward. Please be sure it is the same dog. Please help this little dog and the Mentas family.

If you see Divi, please contact:

Andreina with Animal Rights Aruba (ARA) phone-5925130 or ara@setarnet.aw
Yessy at Contreras Veterinary Clinic phone-(297) 5870917
Kathy with Animal Relief Foundation Aruba (ARF) tillie89@aol.com
Linda with Aruba Island Puppies mydividog@yahoo.com

Cas Animal cont'd

Victor will steal your heart but not your Rogaine!



We continue our series of heartbreaking stories with happy endings from Cas Animal. This foundation was started by its single volunteer, Kiki Arndt, who has made it her life's work to rescue the stray and abused dogs and cats of Aruba. Kiki now cares for 71 dogs and 11 puppies at her home, seeing to their rehabilitation from injury, abuse and sickness as well as feeding, always with the fervent hope that someone will adopt one of those she has saved from nearly certain death or torment.

This week we introduce Victor, who was found in a sickly state and totally bald from malnutrition. Kiki was convinced he would stay that way, and no one would want to adopt him, so she gave him a name, something she usually avoids, unless she believes the dog will become a permanent resident of her care facility.

Victor is a young dog, only about a year old and has been neutered. He is remark-

ably sweet and friendly; Kiki was amazed how he calmly allowed her to scoop him up and put him in her Animal Ambulance when she found him wandering along the side of the highway.

Kiki had despaired of his coat ever growing in, his skin was so bare and a badly scarred; to their delight after seven months of proper nutrition and care he has developed an attractive coat, the result of lack of stress in a loving home and good food. She hopes someone will give this sweet, devoted young dog a good home with regular brushing and bathing of his beautiful new black and white pelt.

Since coming to live on Aruba 14 years ago, Kiki has been retrieving dogs and cats off the streets and nursing them back to health, while psychologically rehabilitating them to their naturally affectionate and devoted dispositions. They are living proof that a little kindness goes a long way. If you wish to assist her with the newest members of the household call 565-2130 or 742-8732. She has several puppies up for adoption also, and it is not unusual for vacationers to return to their homes with one of our very appealing "cunucu dogs." Just such a



story is featured in the February 2011 edition of "Dog Fancy" magazine. Transporting them to the U.S. or Europe is simple and she will walk you through the process. Donations are also appreciated as it costs an astronomical amount of money to feed all the animals and Kiki maintains her Animal Ambulance to transport sick or injured dogs to the vet's office as a free service when their owners are unable to do so. Contributions can be made through CMB Bank account # 25762110 under the name of Cas Animal.

by Rosalie Klein



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Lindsay Lohan denies jewelry theft, her lawyer says

LOS ANGELES, California – Lindsay Lohan's lawyer on Saturday denied reports that the actress had stolen a necklace and said any charges against her would be fought in court.

Los Angeles police have been investigating allegations that the "Mean Girls" star walked off from a jewelry store last month without paying for a \$2,500 necklace. Prosecutors are reviewing

whether to file formal charges against Lohan, although the necklace has been returned to a police station.

A jewelry store in the beach resort of Venice, where Lohan now lives, reported the necklace missing on January 22 -- just three weeks after she left her fifth stint in rehab in three years.

The allegations came as Lohan struggles to pull her life and career back together.

Mega Warehouse Sale from FPNC was a big success!!



Last Saturday, the Funccion Pa Nos Comunidad, FPNC, once again held a tremendous Warehouse Sale on the premises of Post Aruba N.V.

Here follows comments of the organizers.

"Thanks to you and the amazing team of volunteers today was an enormous success. A special thanks to

Adriana Arends and her team, and of course to "Tio" George!

"We were very happy to be able to sell for over Awg. 4,100 on (mostly 1 to 5 florin

items).

"Of course a big thanks to the Aruba community who also were present from 8.30 a.m. until after 4 p.m.

"Thank you for your con-

tinuous support to our foundation. Working together we CAN make that difference in some people's lives."

Photos give an impression of FPNC's warehouse sale.

COMICS



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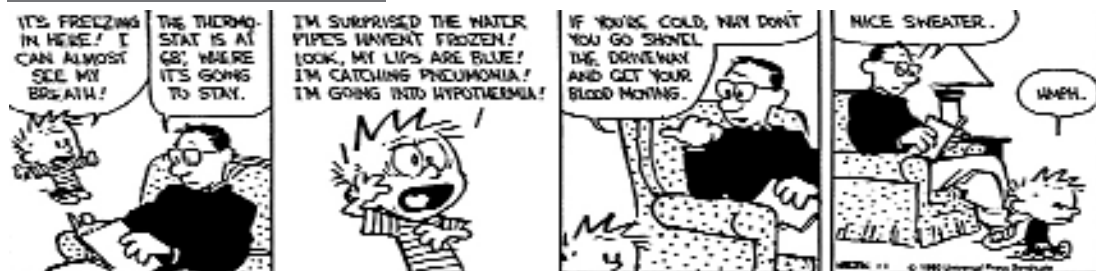
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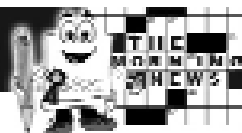
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ACROSS

1. Gypsy, for one
5. Permissible
10. Composed
14. Long
15. Redeem
16. Sole

17. Occupation:

- suff.
18. Designer Karan
19. Solar disk
20. Indifferent
21. Dallas to Little Rock dir.

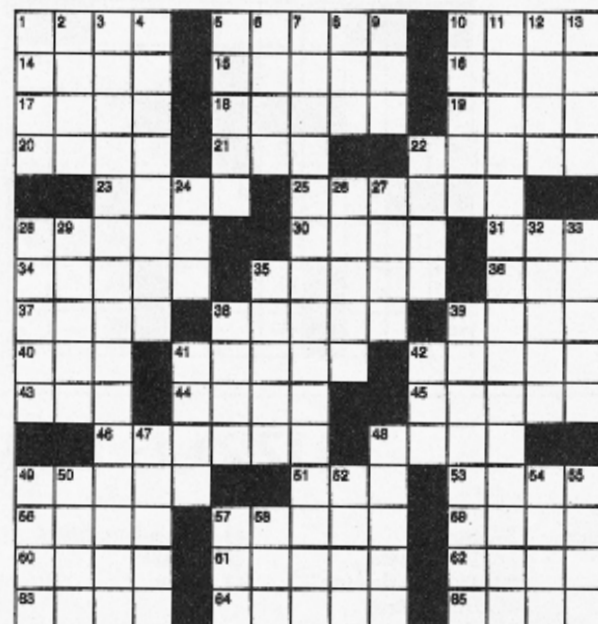
22. Patriot Allen
23. Some paints
25. "the Pooh"
28. Act
30. Sorbets
31. Existed
34. Prongs
35. Topsy's creator
36. Siamese coin
37. Ceases
38. Donne and Keats

39. "A Fish Called Wanda" role
40. Freud's concern
41. Rails
42. Harpoon
43. Ump's kin
44. Esau's wife
45. Quarterback Bradshaw
46. Full-grown
48. Vassal
49. Blocks
51. Overcame
53. Saudi, e.g.
56. "The _____ Tattoo"
57. Think
59. Sped
60. Joanie portrayer
61. Polka, e.g.
62. Oklahoma city
63. Group
64. Snake
65. RR's stops

DOWN

1. Assemble
2. Eight: pref.
3. 1965 Oscar winner
4. Champions
5. Burdens
6. Short jacket
7. 1939 Oscar winner
8. Massachusetts cape

9. Plain
10. Raccoon's relative
11. 1954 Oscar winner
12. Olive genus
13. "Coal Miner's Daughter" subject
22. Otherwise, in Glasgow
24. Mil. ranks
26. Symbols
27. Information
28. Take the helm
29. Slight coloring
32. Floral oil
33. "A Soldier's _____"
35. Navigation device
38. Hindu magic
39. Conducts
41. Charlie Brown's phrase
42. Fr. holy woman
47. Substitute
48. Expression
49. Wm. Clinton
50. Knowledge
52. Formerly
54. Pavarotti's tune
55. Motel items
57. Harem room
58. Tablet



Courtesy of



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Horacio Oduber Hospital
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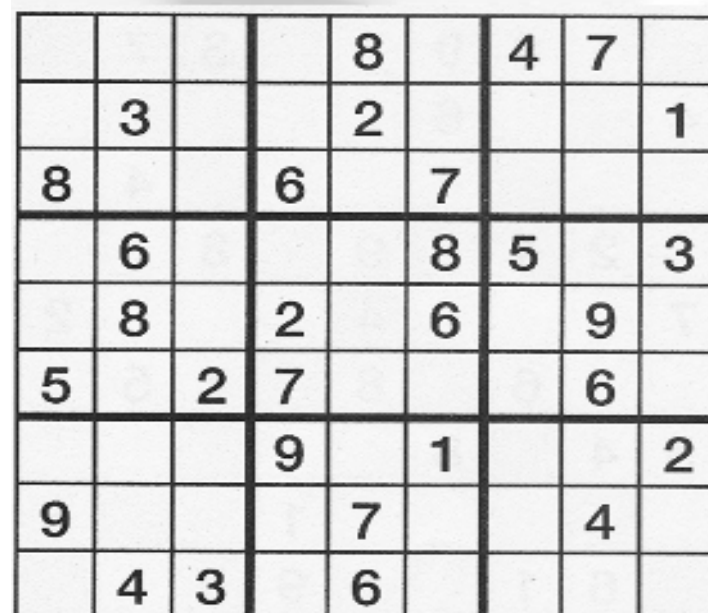
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	7	9	2	1	8	8	1	6
2	8	6	1	7	6	9	1	3
9	9	1	7	6	1	2	6	5
7	6	1	8	5	2	1	8	6
6	2	5	8	6	1	1	9	7
6	2	2	1	1	9	7	9	8
1	9	8	6	2	7	9	6	1
9	1	7	6	8	5	6	2	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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Nasdaq hit by hackers:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The Nasdaq stock exchange said hackers penetrated one of its computer systems, but that there was no evidence customer information or trading was compromised. Nasdaq said its Internet-based Directors Desk, which allows publicly traded companies and their boards to communicate and exchange information online, was "potentially affected" by the breach, which was discovered at the end of last year, DeMaria said. The US Department of Justice was notified and is investigating. A spokesman for the FBI declined to comment to AFP.

=====

Egypt delays stock exchange reopening:

CAIRO (AFP) – Egypt's stock exchange will not reopen this week as planned and a date to resume trading has yet to be decided, its chief said as anti-government protests slow economic life.

Khaled Serri, head of the exchange, was quoted by the MENA state-run news agency as saying the bourse would remain shut with anti-government protests continuing on a daily basis since January 25.

The decision to postpone the reopening of the bourse was taken after consultations with its management, with Egypt's financial supervisory authority and representatives of traders and brokers, Serri said.

=====

Cyclone Yasi may cost Australia \$5 billion:

PARIS (AFP) – Cyclone Yasi may have cost Australia up to \$5 billion in damages after ripping through the country's northeast, destroying towns and key crops, catastrophe modeller EQECAT estimated. Damages could cost Australia, still recovering from unprecedented floods, \$3-\$5 billion (2.2-3.7 billion euros), said the firm, which is heavily relied on by the insurance industry. Yasi hit the Australian coast at Mission Beach, between the cities of Innisfail and Cardwell, which lie in a heavily populated agricultural and tourist region near the world famous Great Barrier Reef. The most powerful cyclone to hit Australia in a century, Yasi packed winds of 290 kilometres (181 miles) per hour across a front that was hundreds of kilometres wide, with a seething eye measuring about 35 kilometres in width.

=====

Fast-growing India facing unemployment 'bomb'

NEW DELHI (AFP) – 100,000 jobseekers travelled to a small northern Indian town for a recruitment fair that ended in tragedy, revealing much about the limitations of the country's economic boom. The crowd of mostly young men converged on the town of Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh crammed into all forms of transport, many of them travelling hours from states across the deeply impoverished plains of north India.

This remarkable turnout for so few vacancies might have gone unreported except for violence when applicants grew frustrated with the registration process and a gruesome accident as the disappointed hordes headed home.

=====

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Higher food prices here to stay: analysts

WASHINGTON (AFP) – From McDonald's burgers in the United States to sugar in Bolivia and chilis in Indonesia, food prices across the globe are soaring.

But consumers and governments should brace themselves for even higher prices, experts warn, as demand in populous emerging economies will put pressure on supplies for years to come.

A "perfect storm" of bad weather, rapid growth in emerging economies -- with people eating more higher-value, resource-intense food -- and low interest rates has sent prices for a broad range of farm and non-farm commodities climbing often at double-digit rates: from wheat to corn, cotton to rubber, and oil to boot.

And while it resembles the sharp spike in food and oil prices of 2007-2008, analysts say the current trend is less speculative in nature and not likely to end with a price collapse, as it did two years ago.

"Things were quite different in 2008... You had price spikes, it was a couple of food grains," said Chris Delgado, an agriculture specialist at the World Bank.

"What is going on now is more broadbased... It's not led by grains."



And it's widespread, and feeding into political worries, not just in the Middle East.

In Indonesia, where even the price of chilis has soared, the government suspended import duties on key food items after inflation hit an annual rate of seven percent in January.

In Bolivia, sugar is being rationed despite a 64 percent price hike.

In the United States, much higher meat prices are forcing restaurants from fancy steak houses to McDonald's to hike their prices, even though the pocketbooks of consumers remain tight.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization said food prices have reached their highest level since it began meas-

uring them in 1990, and pointed to the political problems that can spark.

"Not only is there a risk, but there have already been riots in some parts of the world because of rising prices," FOA chief Jacques Diouf said.

There is little relief in sight, say experts.

"I think commodity prices are going to be trending higher," said Gerard Lyons, chief economist for Standard Chartered Bank.

The 2008 commodity spike was only a handful of food grains plus oil, and driven in large part by political decisions amounting to hoarding and heavy trader speculation.

This year the problem is more fundamental: prices are being driven by growing demand from huge emerging economies like China, India, Russia and Brazil that is unlikely to slacken until prices get much higher, say analysts.

The World Bank's Delgado said that supply shocks are exacerbating the price hikes: weather and policy moves that have cut grain supplies from Russia, Argentina and Australia, among others.

Bamboo bikes: Export success for Ghana



SOWUTUOM, Ghana (AFP) – The sight of tall, green bamboo stalks swaying above the dusty lands of his west African country led Ibrahim Djan Nyampong to an unusual conclusion: bicycles.

Under the shade at a workshop in Ghana, young artisans are making them -- from mountain racers to cargo bamboo bikes -- to suit needs of customers, now as far afield as the United States and Europe.

Producing the bikes does not require costly infrastructure, but takes a large amount of time and effort.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

JAM	OVAL	STEW
OLE	MINI	TAPE
TIC	INNS	AREA
HATE	TAMPER	
SPANS	SLIP	
HUNT	PIER	FRY
ERIE	ADS	FREE
DEC	IRES	LEAN
BOAS	SEEDS	
STRAND	FEED	
TIES	IDLE	OAR
ALIT	SOAP	MIA
GENE	EGGS	SLY

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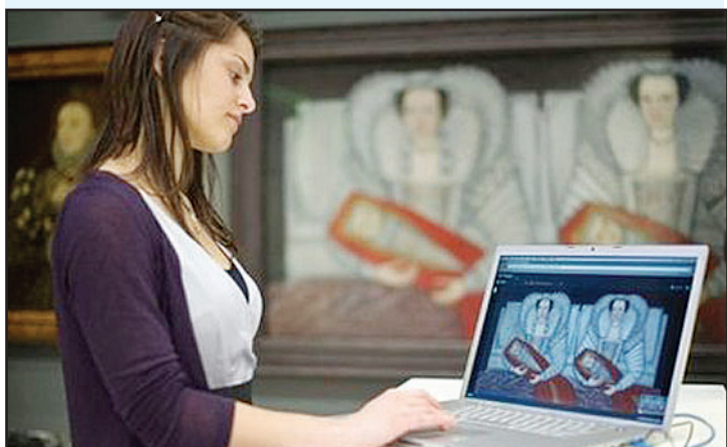
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Internet helps museums net new art lovers



Tate Britain press officer Jenny Craig poses in front of "The Cholmondeley Ladies" while looking at the digital version of the image on the new "Google Art Project" website, at the Tate Britain in London. (AFP PHOTO)

LONDON, England (AFP) — The world's great museums are increasingly using the Internet and social networking sites to pique the interest of people who might never think of setting foot in an art exhibition.

At a click of a mouse, some of the greatest galleries in the world can come to life in a way that has hitherto been near-impossible when seen with the naked eye.

The launch of the Google Art project, taking the cameras used in its Street View site through the doors of 17 museums including MoMA in New York and the National Gallery in London, is the just the latest move into the Internet.

The State Hermitage in Saint Petersburg, Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum and another London heavyweight, Tate Britain, are among the institutions whose selected artworks can be seen in incredible detail.

But all the museums featured already have their own websites, so why marry up with the US online giant?

"We have to seek out the Internet user, on social networks, the networking sites, wherever they may be," said Laurent Gaveau, in charge of new media for the Palace of Versailles, the only French museum taking part in the Google project.

And Google can offer technological muscle.

"The use of gigapixel is really new," Gaveau said, referring to the high-resolution system used for capturing the paintings. By using the zoom function, viewers can see works such as Flemish Renaissance painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder's "The Harvesters" in tiny detail -- even the modest meal the peasants are enjoying in the field is clear as day.

The other innovation is the ease of taking a virtual tour around a number of the world's finest museums -- you can either see the pictures up close, or take a stroll around the galleries.

Charlotte Sexton from Britain's National Gallery said museums were convinced that the Google site -- far from harming the traffic to their own websites -- could actually capture a new audience and even persuade people to come to the museums.

But not all museums are convinced about Google Art.

The Louvre in Paris, a true giant of world culture and home to Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," spurned Google's advances and chose instead to build up its own website, which currently receives 11 million visits a year, compared to 8.5 million visitors in the flesh.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with



house complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout

two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so

the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning club-

room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it



easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with

cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



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White Stripes announce end of the road



LOS ANGELES (AFP) – The White Stripes announced their demise as a band denying any differences or lack of enthusiasm but saying they want their music to be remembered at its best.

Jack White and Meg White, known for their raw mix of punk and blues in songs like "Seven Nation Army," asked their fans not to be disappointed, because "the beauty of art and music is that it can last forever if people want it to."

"The White Stripes would like to announce that today, February 2nd, 2011, their band has officially ended and will make no further new recordings or perform live," they said in a statement on their website.

"The reason is not due to artistic differences or lack of wanting to continue, nor any health issues as both Meg and Jack are feeling fine and in good health."

Rather, they said: "It is for a myriad of reasons, but

mostly to preserve What is beautiful and special about the band and have it stay that way."

Their label Third Man Records would continue to put out unreleased live and studio recordings, said the pair, known for their trademark red, white and black clothing.

The duo -- who used to be married -- launched The White Stripes in Detroit in 1997, with Jack on vocals, guitar and keyboards, and Meg played drums and sometimes sang.

They were part of the Detroit garage scene which emerged in the early 2000s along with bands like The Von Bondies. British supermodel Kate Moss featured in the video of "I just don't know what to do with myself."

They got their international break when influential British DJ John Peel raved about them on his radio show.

The band's "garage" rock music style was showcased on

award-winning albums including "White Blood Cells" and "Elephant." They made a total of six studio albums, the last of which "Icky Thump" in 2007.

Their relationship was sometimes seen as ambiguous -- Jack White used to say they were brother and sister, when in fact they used to be married. He has since married Karen Elson, an English model.

The band has also been featured in the Simpsons television series, while Jack White has collaborated with other top artists including Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones.

Announcing their demise, the pair said they "hope this decision isn't met with sorrow by their fans but that it is seen as a positive move done out of respect for the art and music that the band has created."

"The White Stripes do not belong to Meg and Jack anymore. The White Stripes belong to you now and you can do with it whatever you want. The beauty of art and music is that it can last forever if people want it to."

Fans immediately took to message boards and social media to lament their passing.

"The ground is pure white here in Chicago, a fitting memory of one of the last true rock bands today," wrote Sam Crain on the band's Facebook page, referring to the mega snow storm gripping a third of the US.

"RIP White Stripes," he added on the page, followed by over 250,000 fans.

Italian maestro Muti broke jaw at Chicago rehearsal



Italian maestro Riccardo Muti, pictured in 2009

CHICAGO (AFP) – Italian maestro Riccardo Muti broke his jaw after he fainted during

a rehearsal with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, officials said.

Muti, 69, will undergo surgery to repair "the multiple facial and jaw fractures sustained when he fell during rehearsal last week," the orchestra said in a statement.

"Maestro Muti also continues to undergo tests to assess the underlying cause of the fall."

He remains at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and will undergo surgery this week.

It was the second time the conductor became so ill he had to cancel a performance since he took over as music director of the CSO last year.

Muti cut short his first residency with the orchestra in October when he flew home to Milan to be treated for severe abdominal pains. His doctors determined the pain was brought on by acute physical exhaustion.

A spokeswoman for the orchestra told AFP that Muti was in "good spirits" and "alert" after the fall. The orchestra did not disclose until later in the week that Muti's jaw was broken in the fall.

Muti's scheduled performances were to be led by conductor and pianist Mitsuko Uchida and conductor Leonard Slatkin while Muti recovers, the orchestra said.

Swedish actress Lena Nyman dies at 66

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AFP) – Swedish actress Lena Nyman, who starred in Ingmar Bergman's 1978 film "Autumn Sonata", died after a long illness, her agent told AFP.

"She died early this morning. She was 66," her agent Mats Nilemar said.

Nyman got her breakthrough in Vilgot Sjoeman's 1967 and 1968 landmark films "I am Curious (Yellow)" and "I am Curious (Blue)."

She obtained the Swedish Film Institute's Guldbagge award for Best Actress in 1968 for her work in both films, which had caused scandal because of her nudity.

Nyman also played Ronja Roeverdatter's mother Lovis



in the 1984 adaptation of Sweden's beloved Astrid Lindgren novel by the same name.

Tributes to the actress poured in in Sweden Friday, where she is known for her work in theatre, film and television.

US comic book to depict British royal romance



LOS ANGELES (AFP) – A US publisher is to produce a comic book about the romance of Britain's Prince William and his fiancée Kate Middleton, timed to mark their upcoming wedding. "Fame: The Royals" is described as a "behind-the-curtain look" at the royal couple, who are to wed in London's Westminster Abbey on April 29. "As Americans, we are fascinated by the British royals. They fit within our construct of a celebrity-fueled popular culture," said Darren Davis, president of publisher Bluewater Productions, based in Washington state.

"But more than, that they represent an air of pomp and history that we just don't have," he added.

The comic book, to be published in April in time for the royal wedding, recounts William's early childhood, his mother Princess Diana's death,

his schooling and military career, as well as his romance with Middleton.

It also examines the 29-year-old's success in handling of life in the media spotlight, as she prepares to join the royals officially.

"Here you have two people trapped in a fishbowl ... As a non-royal how do you navigate in the sudden storm of fame? As someone used to the spotlight, how do you maintain a veil of privacy?" asked Davis.

Also this week a US TV producer announced the casting of a relatively unknown British actress to play Middleton in a television film about the royal romance.

Camilla Luddington, whose previous appearances have mostly been in US TV series, will play Middleton in "William and Kate," planned by US television network Lifetime in time for April.

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F1 star Kubica underwent surgery after horror crash



Ambulance service workers carry Robert Kubica following his serious accident yesterday. (AFP PHOTO)

ROME, Italy (AFP) – Polish Formula One driver Robert Kubica underwent surgery yesterday after suffering serious multiple injuries in a high-speed rally crash which could place his world championship future in doubt.

The 26-year-old Lotus Renault driver was at the wheel of a Skoda Fabia, taking part in the Ronde di Andora Rally in Liguria in the north-west of Italy, when his vehicle left the road and crashed into a church wall.

He was airlifted to the Santa Corona hospital in nearby Pietra Ligure where he underwent surgery.

"Surgeons tried to restore the functionality of his right hand," Kubica's manager Daniel Morelli told reporters outside the hospital.

"They have repaired the bone structure. Now they have to think about the muscle functionality but Robert

has a very strong character, he'll be OK."

Kubica is reported to have taken a bend at speed at 8.30 a.m. when he lost control and hit a guard rail which broke down the drivers' door and bent the roll-bar.

The car ended up in the wall of the local church.

His co-driver, Jacob Gerber, emerged from the wreck unhurt but Kubica remained inside.

"We were driving the first four kilometers of the first special stage," explained Gerber.

"I was looking at the notes and I didn't realise the car was skidding.

"It was only at the moment of impact that I saw Robert was holding his arm and after a few moments he lost consciousness.

"Robert is not just a great driver but also a friend, I hope he'll be back soon."

Kubica was said to have been conscious when emergency services removed him from the vehicle.

He was then transferred to hospital by helicopter suffering from multiple fractures and internal trauma.

Italian media claimed his life was not in danger, but he may lose full use of his hand.

With the start of the new F1 season just five weeks away, it's likely that reserve driver Bruno Senna will be called in to take Kubica's place at the Bahrain opener.

Lotus Renault team principal Eric Boullier said he was shocked by the accident.

"Robert is someone we like a lot. It is extremely sad. We are all really shocked," said Boullier.

"He has multiple fractures. His hand is injured. It is too early and impolite to think of a replacement driver. We are waiting for news of Robert and how long he will be out of action before we think of taking such a decision."

It is not the first time Kubica has been involved in a horror crash, after he hit a wall at 300kph during the Canadian Grand Prix in 2007.

Driving for Sauber, Kubica slid off the circuit and crashed into a wall, before rebounding across the track in a barrel roll and hitting another barrier.

Kubica, however, was not seriously injured, sustaining nothing more serious than a sprained ankle and slight concussion.

He missed only one Grand Prix after the incident.

Fellow drivers sent messages of support to Kubica.

Williams veteran Rubens Barrichello wrote on Twitter: "I would like to ask you for your best wishes to Kubica. We all like him and he deserves all the best."

Dream first ATP title for Anderson

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AFP) – A dream came true for 2.03-meter South African tennis 'skyscraper' Kevin Anderson in his home town yesterday when he won an ATP World Tour title for the first time.

Anderson overcame a nervous start and losing the first set to wear down dogged Indian

Somdev Devvarman 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a rain-interrupted South African Open final at the Montecasino entertainment centre.

Success for the world number 59 ended a long wait by South Africa for an ATP triumph with the last coming in Tokyo six years ago when qualifier Wesley Moodie went all the way in the Japan Open.

Farrar wins as peloton's radio protest gathers pace



US cyclist Tyler Farrar celebrates on the finish line of the 116 km-long first stage of the 20th Mallorca Challenge in Palma de Mallorca

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain (AFP) – A controversial decision to ban two-way radios in professional cycling was met with defiance week-end as several teams and riders turned up equipped to use the banned equipment here at the Mallorca Trophy.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) hopes the banning of race radios, effective as of this season in elite races, will add thrills and suspense to a sport which it feels has become too radio-reliant.

Many teams have argued that radios are essential for security reasons, with sports directors -- and riders -- able to warn of dangers on the road such as oil spills, pot holes or dangerous bends in the mountains.

And they seem determined to prove a point.

A number of teams turned up at the start of the opening race in the Mallorca Trophy series equipped to use their radios.

That move, however, only served to delay the start, with UCI officials threatening to refuse to validate the race results.

In the end, the race was finally held with American Tyler Farrar of Garmin-Cervelo dominating a bunch sprint to hold off Spaniard Francisco Ventoso and German Marcel Kittel at the end of 116km of racing.

The Mallorcan Trophy is a series of separate races held over five days, with riders having the option of competing in all or just some of the events.

Protest, protest, protest



A Green Bay Packers fan is seen drinking a beer as he walks past religious protesters while on his way to the NFL's Super Bowl XLV football game in Arlington, Texas, yesterday. (AFP PHOTO)



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Faulk, Sanders, five others get Hall of Fame nod

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) — When Marshall Faulk was growing up poor in the housing projects in New Orleans one of his first jobs was selling popcorn at the Superdome stadium.

Faulk, the NFL's 2000 most valuable player, nine-time Pro Bowler Deion Sanders and five others were named as the class of 2011 into the Pro Football Hall of Fame at a lavish ceremony at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Dallas.

"Marshall Faulk is Emmitt Smith on steroids," said fellow hall of famer Michael Irvin who was part of the panel that greeted each inductee on the podium as they were introduced.

Faulk and Sanders were both elected on their first year of eligibility.

Running back Faulk used a hankie to dab away the tears as he described his journey from popcorn seller to Hall of Famer.

For Faulk, football became his escape from the crime-ridden, drug plagued Desire housing project he was raised in. "When I was growing up as a kid my dream was to watch a football game," Faulk said. "Then it was to play in a football game and then this. This is so special."

The 37-year-old Faulk played 12 seasons with two teams, the Indianapolis Colts and St. Louis Rams. He still leads all running backs in total



Marshall Faulk tries to hold back tears after being inducted into the 2011 Pro Football Hall of Fame class during an announcement at the Super Bowl XLV media center in Dallas, Texas

receiving yards with 6,875.

He played four positions at Carver High School including a brief but unspectacular stint as a quarterback.

"I always felt like I could play quarterback," Faulk said. "In my junior year I bugged my high school coach so he put me in at quarterback and it wasn't fun. I wanted the ball in my hands and to run and do something with it."

Sanders, who was the king of razzle dazzle on the field, also talked about growing up poor in Fort Myers, Florida.

"I saw a young woman pushing a cart in a hospital," said Sanders a first round draft pick of Atlanta in 1989. "I was embarrassed that my mother

wasn't a nurse or a doctor in that hospital. I used to lie to my friends because my mother was a custodian.

"When I was seven I told her that we were going to be rich because I was going to make a lot of money one day.

"So whenever people ridiculed or mocked me I looked past them because I saw my mother pushing that cart."

Sanders' got his eight-time Pro Bowl career off to a rousing start by returning a punt 68 yards for a touchdown in his debut game.

Sanders and Faulk were joined in the latest class by five others: Richard Dent, Shannon Sharpe, Chris Hanburger, Les Richter and NFL Films founder Ed Sabol.

Among those who didn't make it this year were Jerome Bettis, Cris Carter, Tim Brown and Charles Haley.

To get to the 2011 inductees, the NFL's 44-man Hall of Fame selection committee start the process with a list of 114 names. They whittle that list down to 26 semi-finalists and then 17 finalists from which the inductees are chosen.

BjornBjorn wins Qatar Masters by four shots

DOHA, Qatar (AFP) — Denmark's Thomas Bjorn reaped the reward for three rounds of consistent golf when he won the 2.5-million-dollar Qatar Masters by four shots from Spain's Alvaro Quiros at Doha Golf Club. Bjorn posted a 69 in the final round for a total of 14-under-par 274.

It was his second win in the Middle Eastern desert, after his sensational victory over Tiger Woods at the Dubai Desert Classic in 2001.

Quiros, who won in Qatar in 2009, suffered the heart-break of finishing as the runner-up in Qatar for the second

straight time, having finished second to Sweden's Robert Karlsson last year.

Bjorn, who was ahead of Austrian Markus Brier by one shot at the end of round three and five in front of Quiros, recorded 14 straight pars before registering his first birdie on the 15th hole.

Quiros produced four birdies to overhaul Brier but a bogey on the 17th effectively ended his chances, with Bjorn taking birdies on 16 and 18.

He was subsequently named as one of Colin Montgomerie's vice-captains for the Ryder Cup.



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Eaton smashes own world heptathlon record



American Ashton Eaton, pictured in action in August 2010

TALLINN, Estonia (AFP) — America's Ashton Eaton smashed his own world indoor heptathlon record yesterday when he piled up 6,568 points at the Tallinn international indoor event.

The 23-year-old had set his first world record of 6,499 points at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Arkansas in March 2010, shattering the previous best of 6,476 set by compatriot Dan O'Brien at Toronto in

1993, when Eaton was only five years old.

Yesterday, Andres Raja from Estonia was second with 6,114 points and Dominik Distelberger from Austria took third with 5,951 points.

he women's pentathlon was won by Grit Sadeiko of Estonia with 4,422 points to edge out compatriot Kaie Kand, who scored 4,383 points.

Laura Ikauniece from Latvia was third with 4,206 points.

Clijsters gives Belgium victory over US in Fed Cup



Kim Clijsters (right) shakes hands with Bethanie Mattek Sands

ANTWERP, Belgium (AFP) — Australian Open champion Kim Clijsters secured Belgium's ticket for the Fed Cup semi-finals thanks to a 6-7 (10/12), 6-2, 6-1 victory over American Bethanie Mattek-

Sands yesterday.

Belgium have taken an unassailable 3-0 lead over the United States, and will now meet the Czech Republic in the last four after they secured their passage against Slovakia.

Cricket:

Strauss says Morgan doubtful for World Cup

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — England captain Andrew Strauss yesterday conceded gifted batsman Eoin Morgan was in considerable doubt for the World Cup after breaking a finger.

Morgan missed England's final one-day international against Australia in Perth yesterday with the injury, which he suffered in the ODI in Adelaide last month.

Morgan at first thought his finger was just bruised and Strauss said he "was quite surprised" when X-rays revealed a substantial fracture.

The Irish-born batsman headed back to Britain ahead of his teammates to see a specialist, with England's 15-man squad due to fly to the World Cup next weekend.

Strauss said Morgan was the major concern of six players from his World Cup squad currently battling injury. Although he did not rule Morgan out, Strauss conceded they were preparing for the likelihood the left-hander would not be available for the tournament.



Eoin Morgan, left, nicks a ball past Australia's wicketkeeper Brad Haddin during their one day international cricket series match at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.

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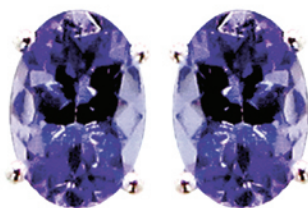


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